

FEDERAL SHUTDOWN INFORMATION RELATED TO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

Updated October 6, 2013

General Information Links:

- NRCS Government Shutdown Plan [HERE](#)
- NCDEA Federal Shutdown Procedures [HERE](#)

Update for Stakeholders on NRCS Operations - October 1, 2013:

The following message is being forwarded on behalf of Jason A. Weller, Chief, NRCS:

Due to a lapse in appropriations for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), as of October 1, NRCS has initiated the process of orderly shutdown of nonessential operations. You can view USDA's plans for a lapse in appropriations at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/contingency-plans>.

We understand the uncertainty that the current circumstances present for Americans that USDA serves every day, as well as our many partners around the country. Effective today, except for critical activities that protect life and property (i.e. work on high-hazard dams and preserving plants at PMCS), many NRCS staff will be furloughed pending reinstatement of funding by Congress. These staff will not be available by phone or email, and cannot carry out work for the Agency, until funding is restored.

In NRCS, this means that many services will be delayed or interrupted. For example:

- Previously-awarded and obligated grants and agreements (including Farm Bill program funding):
 - Partners/landowners/recipients can continue the work of these agreements/grants to the extent that they can do so without any technical or other assistance from NRCS.
 - All actions taken will be at the partners/landowners/recipients own risk as no certifications, reimbursements, etc., will be conducted or processed.
 - Until NRCS employees return and all operations are fully functional, payments will be delayed.
- Previously awarded and obligated agreements with local sponsor organizations, who in turn solicit and enter into contracts for conservation work and the support and assistance by NRCS will not be considered a critical activity.
 - Parties to this type of agreement and action can proceed to solicit and award contracts at their own risk, as no technical assistance or administrative actions (e.g., reimbursement) from NRCS can be conducted during the government-wide shut down.
 - Only when all government functions are operational will NRCS be able to provide assistance and process payments.
- Previously awarded technical services providers (TSPs) agreements:

- TSPs may provide landowners and customers their services; however, if NRCS support, assistance, or oversight is required, then work under these agreements must be suspended until funds become available.
- No reimbursement or technical assistance from NRCS will occur during the shutdown.

We are committed to keeping you as up to date as possible, within the limits of current circumstances.

Sincerely,
Jason A. Weller
Chief, NRCS